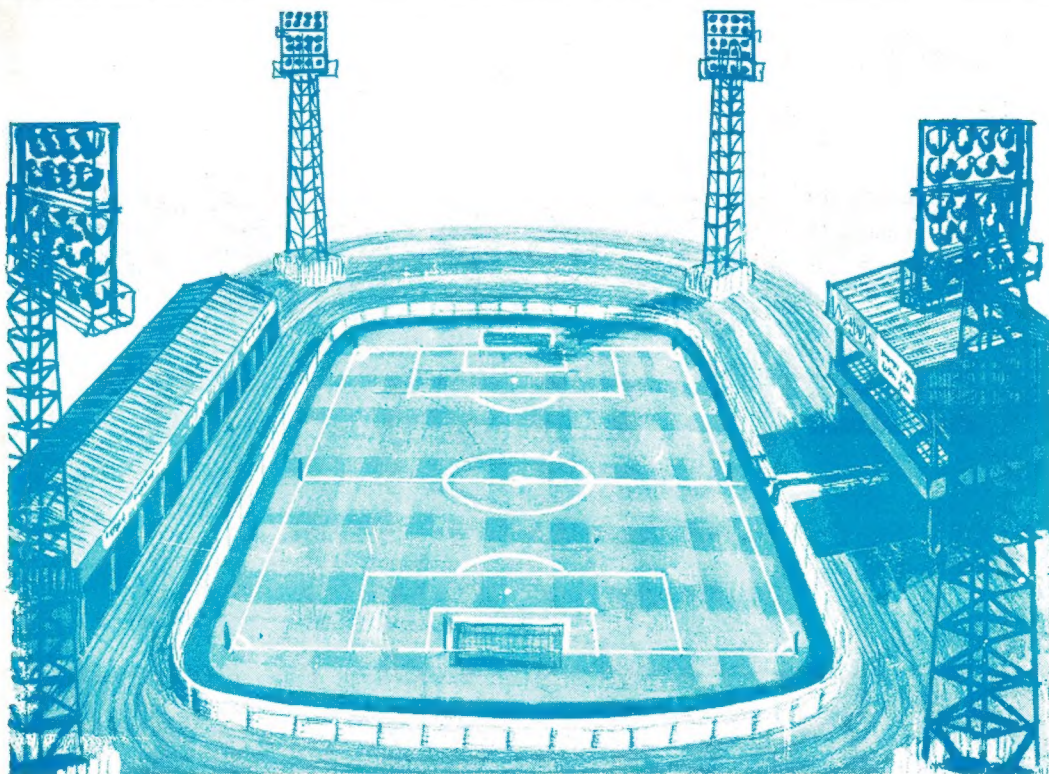


ATHLETIC

WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

v.

READING

Saturday, 18th November, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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OUR VISITORS

Today, we welcome for the first time ever to Springfield Park promotion seeking Reading. Up to now Reading have had a very successful season, now lying only one point behind top club Wimbledon. They are still interested in the Football League Cup. To qualify for the last eight they must win the replay with Southampton at the Dell this week. Although a seemingly hard task this is not beyond the bounds of possibility, we wish them luck. They have already disposed of one 1st Division side in Wolves.

Reading were formed in 1871 and played in the Southern League. They became original members of the 3rd Division South in 1921. In 1926 they were members of the 2nd Division but in 1931 they were relegated to the 3rd Division (South). The club remained there until 1958 when they qualified to join the new 3rd Division (a 4th Division having been formed).

They have had numerous successful F.A. Cup runs, and in 1926-27 they provided a sensation by reaching the Semi-final. In the first round they mastered Manchester United, then disposed of Portsmouth, Brentford and Swansea before surrendering to the ultimate Cup winners—Cardiff City (the only club outside England to win the Cup).

In the Cup, its story has at least one remarkable chapter. In 1881 it reached the 4th round without playing a match, for it was given a walk over in the second round, a bye in the third round, and itself scratched to Marlow in the fourth round.

Their ground, known as Elm Park, is in a charming spot and the playing surface one of the best in the league. Their record attendance was 33,042 way back in 1927 when they played Brentford in the Cup.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP — 1st ROUND

SATURDAY, 25th NOVEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

WIGAN ATHLETIC v. BURY

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

SATURDAY, 2nd DECEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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FROM THE MANAGERS DESK

It is extremely pleasant to return to Springfield Park after a Friday evening safari to Stockport and Newport. The Stockport result made very pleasant reading, but the Newport match, not so good. However, it was only in the last minutes we lost at Somerton Park and although we did not perform at all in the first half, we came good and equalised with fifteen minutes to go. I really thought we would get a winner then, but it was not to be, and we lost a goal in the last minute, which made the journey home that little bit more depressing. However at the outset we would have settled for two points — and two points we got.

READING

Today we welcome Maurice Evans and his very attractive Reading side for their first ever visit to Springfield Park. At going to press the result of their match at Southampton is not known, but I am sure Laurie McMenemy was a very happy man indeed to get away from Reading with a goalless draw. Currently riding high in second place in the League, they have an excellent chance of going up, and today's game should go a long way to answering our questions as to just how far we have advanced since the start of the season. A good win today and perhaps (just perhaps) we could seriously think about ourselves as potential contenders for the Third Division. But we will not get carried away as consolidation is still our target and anything else will be a bonus.

MANAGER OF THE MONTH

Today I will be receiving an award from Bells Whisky as Manager of the Month in the Fourth Division. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who has connections with Wigan Athletic for the support I have had since the season

started. By that I mean my Board of Directors, the staff, the supporters who have really got behind the team both home and away, and, last but by no means least, Ken Banks, Duncan Colquhoun, Fred Eyre, Dave Brooks, and of course the Players, because they are the lads who made it possible. The success of a manager is only a reflection on the players he has around him and believe me the spirit we have achieved since the start of the season has been unbelievable. Each and everyone of the players has contributed to this spirit. When you think we had only one point from five games it would have been so easy to let the heads drop, but they didn't, and I thank them for that. I am sure that they are all feeling confident now and with a little bit more luck and more spirit (Bells) they can go a long way.

ALL ROUND SHARES

It is a very difficult thing to do to let everyone share in the good fortune of a gallon bottle of whisky, but you can be sure the players will have a share (although I don't think there are many whisky drinkers among them); also my right-hand buddie Ken Banks, the Chairman and the Directors have been well looked after (thanks to Bells). Last but not least I will keep a dram or two for any old-age pensioner supporters who would like to drop in to see me. In particular I would like to ask J. W. Morthop, alias ex-player, alias disgruntled season ticket holder, alias Jock, alias Wroughtington supporter, alias Latics fan. This chap by the way writes me a letter every time we lose and tells me what is wrong with the team, so I would really like to meet him as he is obviously a Latics die-hard. My only complaint is I never get a letter if we win.

Enjoy today's match.

FOCUS ON IAN PURDIE

Full Name :	Ian Purdie.
Birthplace :	Belshill.
Birthdate :	7th March, 1953.
Height :	5 ft. 9 ins.
Weight :	11 stone 2 lbs.
Previous Clubs :	Aberdeen (6 years), Dundee (2 years), Motherwell (11 months).
Married :	Yes.
Children :	One son, Nicholas.
Car :	Datsun
Favourite player :	Kevin Smart (in goal).
Favourite other team :	Rangers.
Most difficult opponent :	Stewart Kennedy (Aberdeen)
Most memorable match :	Scottish Cup semi v. Celtic, with Aberdeen.
Biggest thrill :	Scoring against Rangers at Ibrox.
Biggest disappointment :	No Winners Medals.
Best country visited :	Germany.
Favourite food :	Steak.
Miscellaneous likes :	Winning.
Miscellaneous dislikes :	Losing.
Favourite TV shows :	Sweeny. Sports Programmes.
Favourite singers :	Tiny Tim.
Favourite actors :	Paul Newman, Clint Eastwood.
Best friend:	Jimmy Miller (Morton).
Biggest influence on career :	Eddie Turnbull
Biggest drag in soccer :	Injuries.
International honours :	Under 23 Scottish International.
Personal ambition :	To be happy.
Professional ambition :	To keep enjoying playing.
If not in football, what would you like to be :	Turner/Fitter.
Which person in the world would you most like to meet :	Blodwyn.

PEN PICTURES OF READING A.F.C.

PAUL BENNETT (Midfield)

Born: Southampton. A very experienced player. Spent several years with Southampton Football Club and was in their Cup-winning squad in 1976. Joined Reading on the 26th July, 1976.

RICHARD BOWMAN (Midfield)

Born: Lewisham, Kent. Joined Reading on the 16th December 1976, from Charlton Athletic, his only other professional club.

MARTYN BRITTEN (Forward)

Born: Bristol. Transferred from Bristol Rvs. for a substantial fee in August 1977.

STEVEN DEATH (Goalkeeper)

Born: Ipswich. Schoolboy International. With West Ham club for five seasons. Joined Reading on loan November 1969, and eventually transferred on 30th July, 1970.

ROY DAVIES (Midfield)

Born: Perivale, London. Transferred from Slough for a substantial fee in season 1977-78.

PATRICK EARLES (Forward)

Born: Titchfield, Hants. An experienced player. His previous service was with the Southampton Football Club. Transferred to Reading on the 12th January, 1977.

STUART J. HENDERSON (Full-back)

Born: Burgh of Alan, Scotland. A Scottish Schoolboy International who has played for Chelsea and Brighton & Hove Albion. Joined Reading on the 2nd June, 1973.

STEVEN E. R. HETZKE (Midfield)

Born: Marlborough, Wiltshire. One of our younger players who has graduated through the club's youth system, and was engaged as an apprentice player on the 9th August 1971 and signed as a full professional on the 4th June 1973.

MARTIN HICKS (Defender)

Born: Stratford-upon-Avon. Transferred from Charlton Athletic in February 1978.

MICHAEL KEARNEY (Forward)

Born: Glasgow. Signed from Chester F.C. for a substantial fee in January 1978.

OLIVER KEARNS (Forward)

Born: Banbury, Oxon. Joined Reading in season 1976-77 as a non-contract player and signed as a full-time professional on 2nd July 1977.

A. LEWIS (Defender)

Born: Oxford. Transferred from Brighton & Hove Albion in August 1977, after service with Derby.

DAVID MORELINE (Defender)

Born: Stepney, London S.E. Signed as a professional player on the 3rd June 1974, when he was transferred from Fulham F.C. his only other professional club.

GARY PETERS (Defender)

Born: Carshalton, Surrey. Assisted Guildford & Dorking F.C. for several seasons and after a trial period with Reading signed as a full-time professional on 23rd May 1975.

WAYNE WANKLYN (Forward)

Born: Hull, Yorkshire. Progressed through youth scheme and signed as a professional from apprentice in season 1977-78.

MARK WHITE (Defender)

Born: Sheffield, Yorks. Had previous experience as an apprentice professional with Sheffield Utd. Signed as a full-time professional on 10th March 1977.

JEREMY WILLIAMS (Forward)

Born: Didcot, Oxon. Signed as a full-time professional from apprentice in season 1977-78.

NEW AND REBUILT

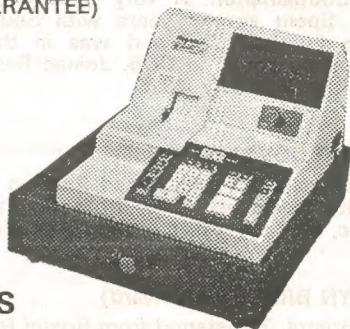
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4th DIVISION NEWS

Since the £30,000 signing of Derek Bell from Halifax, Barnsley have recovered their early season form. After five games without a win they have now won two in a row. Bell has scored four goals in three games and they must rank amongst the top favourites for promotion.

Halifax and Rochdale have shown some improvement over the past few weeks but are still finding points hard to get. After holding Port Vale for most of the game on Saturday, Rochdale fell to a late goal and lost two valuable points. Halifax only drew 1-1 at home to Aldershot.

Port Vale are the away specialists having obtained five wins from nine games on foreign soil.

Every club in the league has now won at least one game at home, but Huddersfield, Scunthorpe, Rochdale and Halifax are still seeking their first

away win.

Wimbledon, in only their second season in League football, are going great guns, they now lead Reading by one point. Their strength seems to be 'up front'. They have scored 31 goals in 17 games.

Up to now, Wigan have played 20 games (including three League Cup-ties) and have attracted a total of 127,091 spectators. They have in fact played in front of an average gate of 6,354.

Bournemouth, after transferring Ted McDougal to Manchester Utd. about four years ago for a six figure fee, have now resigned him from Southampton on a free transfer.

Bradford City have engaged Mr. George Mullhall, the Bolton Wanderers Assistant Manager, as their new "Boss".

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

(up to and including 11th November, 1978)

	P			Home			Away			Pts		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	17	8	1	0	19	7	3	3	2	12	11	26
Reading	17	7	2	0	20	5	3	3	2	11	9	25
Barnsley	17	5	2	1	16	7	4	4	1	9	5	24
Portsmouth	17	6	1	1	13	2	3	2	4	13	14	21
Grimsby	17	4	2	2	16	9	4	2	3	11	9	20
Torquay	17	6	1	1	15	6	3	1	5	8	15	20
Aldershot	17	4	3	1	13	5	2	5	2	9	10	20
Bournemouth	17	5	1	2	12	5	2	4	3	5	5	19
Hartlepool	17	3	4	2	15	11	3	2	3	6	12	18
Stockport	17	5	1	2	13	3	1	4	4	11	16	17
Port Vale	17	1	5	2	11	11	5	0	4	15	12	17
Northampton	17	5	3	0	17	7	1	2	6	8	18	17
WIGAN ATHLETIC	17	5	0	3	11	9	2	3	4	5	8	17
Hereford	17	3	5	0	11	4	2	1	6	9	12	15
Huddersfield	17	5	3	1	13	6	0	2	6	5	14	15
Scunthorpe	17	5	1	3	12	10	0	4	4	4	9	15
Newport	17	2	3	4	10	13	3	2	3	12	13	15
York	17	4	2	3	10	10	2	1	5	5	13	15
Darlington	17	3	3	3	10	7	2	1	5	7	14	14
Doncaster	17	3	4	2	11	9	1	2	5	8	16	14
Bradford City	17	4	2	3	16	12	2	0	6	7	18	14
Crewe	17	2	3	4	11	16	1	4	3	6	14	13
Rochdale	17	2	3	4	7	11	0	3	5	4	19	10
Halifax	17	1	2	5	4	12	0	2	7	7	20	6

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Today we entertain Reading and this will be the first of three important and attractive home games.

Next Saturday we are at home to Bury in the F.A. Cup. Although we are near neighbours we have only met on one previous occasion, in the Lancashire Senior Cup in the mid-sixties. The result at Wigan was a draw and we lost the replay at Bury the following week. After this game we sold Brian Grundy, our then number 11 to Bury for a substantial fee. We sincerely hope next Saturday's game will bring in a good, well-behaved crowd.

Our floodlight improvements have been completed and we hope they will now be equal to most in the 3rd and 4th Division. Since our election

to the Football League many ground improvements have been carried out and enormous efforts have been made by directors, staff and volunteers from the supporters, but it is most disheartening to have ground 'break-ins' and robberies thereby creating damage to property and equipment, causing the staff extra work and the Club extra expense.

It has now become necessary for the Board of Directors to consider the installation of a modern expensive burglar alarm system in every part of the ground.

It is most pleasing to myself and the directors, manager and players that at all our away games so far, each and every club has given us a very warm welcome and the hospitality has been wonderful, although it has taken such a long time to realise our ambition, every club appears to be happy at our election, and at such an early stage of the season many friendships have been made which I am sure will be cemented as the years go by.

Such friendships can and should be created by the supporters through the Supporters' Clubs, if this is attempted it will certainly bring a better atmosphere amongst rival fans.

ARTHUR HORROCKS,
Chairman.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

SATURDAY, 18th NOVEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

LINE-UP

Wigan Athletic	Referee : Mr. T. L. MOORE (Leeds) Linesmen : Mr. D. TWEATS (Blackpool) Mr. F. PHIPPS (Rossett)	Reading
1 John Brown	FOR YOUR RECORD Result : Attendance : Scorers :	Steve Death 1
2 Kevin Smart		Gary Peters 2
3 Joe Hinnigan		Mark White 3
4 Tommy Gore		Richard Bowman 4
5 Noel Ward		Martin Hicks 5
6 Dave Fretwell		Paul Bennett 6
7 Frank Corrigan		Pat Earles 7
8 Jeff Wright		Steve Hetzke 8
9 Micky Moore		Mike Kearney 9
10 Peter Houghton		Laurie Sanchez 10
11 Ian Purdie		Alan Lewis 11
12 Derek Brownbill		Ollie Kearns 12

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OPINION

by Harold Ashurst



Today's game against second-placed Reading sees the first of three crowd-pulling encounters at Springfield Park.

The 'Royals' have already beaten Wigan earlier in the season at Elm Park, and they look a good bet for promotion. They are also having a good run in the League Cup and held 1st Division Southampton to a draw at home last week. The result of the replay at the Dell was not known at the time of writing, but if Reading won, there should be a few extra on today's gate.

Next week is the mouth-watering cup-tie with Third Division Bury and the chance of another epic giant-killing run to equal last seasons. A crowd of over 10,000 is expected

for that game and if it is anything like the matches with York and Sheffield Wednesday last term, then the crowd will be well satisfied.

A fortnight today sees the third of the attractive games, this time with 'unknown' Torquay as our visitors.

The Plainmoor club, largely unheard of, have been sorting out the top teams. Included in their list of impressive results is a 2-1 win at Barnsley, a win over Portsmouth and the most recent, a 3-1 drubbing of Grimsby.

It all adds up to a feast of football, probably the most attractive month in the town's history and all we can do now is sit back and wait for the show to start.

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RESULTS 1978-79

HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS

[illegible]

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978		
August—		F-A
18—Blackpool 'A'	H	2-1
25—Southport Res.	H	1-1
September—		
2—Everton 'A'	A	2-1
9—Chester 'A'	H	1-3
15—Tranmere R. Res.	A	0-0
16—		
23—Bradford City Res.	H	5-0
30—Liverpool 'A'	A	1-2
October—		
7—Rochdale Res.	H	2-2
14—Rochdale Res.	A	0-1
21—Carlisle Utd. Res.	H	2-0
27—Stockport County 'A' ..	A	8-0
November—		
11—Tranmere R. Res.	H	2-2
18—Crewe Alex 'A'	A	
25—Manchester City 'A'	A	
December—		
2—Blackpool 'A'	A	
9—Port Vale Res.	H	
16—Chester 'A'	A	
23—Macclesfield T. Res.	H	
26—		
30—Morecambe Res.	A	

1979		
January—		F-A
1—Oldham Ath. Res.	H (Mn.)	
6—Morecambe Res.	H	
13—Port Vale Res.	A	
20—Manchester City 'A'	H	
27—Macclesfield T. Res.	A	
February—		
3—Bradford City Res.	A	
10—Crewe Alex Res.	H	
17—Manchester Utd. 'A'	A	
24—Oldham Ath. Res.	A	
March—		
3—Carlisle Res.	A	
10—Stockport County 'A'	H	
17—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	A	
24—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	H	
31—Wrexham Res.	A	
April—		
7—Manchester Utd. 'A'	H	
13—Southport Res.	A (Fri.)	
15—Wrexham Res.	H	
16—		
21—Liverpool 'A'	H	
28—		
May—		
5—Everton 'A'	H	

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 Southern League Champions in 1976
 and the Anglo-Italian competition in

1977. The Queen's Jubilee game be-
 tween Leeds United and Ajax in 1977
 the West Riding County Cup Final,
 linesman semi-final of F.A. Cup, and
 referee F.A. Vase final in 1978.

A married man, he is a Lecturer
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 technic. Is a qualified F.A. coach,
 also interested in cricket and music.

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